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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Benjamin *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/899,495

Group Art Unit: 1647

Filed: July 5, 2001

Examiner: Robert S. Landsman

Title: HUMAN ION CHANNELS

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Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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TECH CENTER 1600/2300

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE**

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action dated April 23, 2003.

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-148, all the pending claims, are subject to a restriction requirement.

The Examiner required Applicants to elect one of sixteen patentably distinct inventions for examination. The Office Action alleges that each of the inventions is distinct because, *inter alia*, "each has an independent utility that is distinct for each invention which cannot be exchanged." (Office Action at page 3). Applicants were further required to elect one sequence from the group of sequences consisting of SEQ ID NOS:1-118.